



Baltimore School

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NEWSLETTER **April 12, 2013**

Welcome Back

Welcome back to all our students and staff from what was hopefully a very exciting and fun-filled break. We have 10 weeks of school remaining and for our Level III students it is the final 10 weeks of their high school career. The next few weeks are very important for our students as it is time to really prepare for those Public exams, the CRT exams and the final exams. The days are getting longer and the sun is getting warmer, however, the focus needs to remain on school work.

Upcoming Events

- Apr. 18 – School Dance for Gr. K-6
- Apr. 19-20 – Hosting Gr. 10 Boys Basketball Provincials
- Apr. 26-27 – Hosting Gr. 11 Boys Basketball Provincials
- Apr. 22 – K-Grade 6 Literacy Assembly
- Apr. 29–May 3 – Baltimore Radio Station is on the Air
- May 3 - Kinderstart classes
- May 9 - Level III Graduation.
- May 10 – PD Day
- May 20 – Victoria Day Holiday
- May 23 – Arts & Literature Fair
- May 24 – Volunteer Assembly & Lunch
- May 29 – Jr./Sr. High Spring Concert
- May 30 – K-6 Spring Concert & Kindergarten Grad
- June 7 – Last Day of Classes for Jr./Sr. High
- June 10 – Exam Begin for Jr./Sr. High
- June 20 – Last Day before Summer Break

Varsity Sports

For the final two weekends in April, Baltimore School Gym will be abuzz with excitement as we are hosting two Provincial basketball tournaments. During the weekend of April 19-20 the Grade 10 Boys Provincial Championship will be hosted and during the following weekend, we will be hosting the Grade 11 Provincials Boys Championship. Come out and cheer on our boys!

Thank You

We wish to thank Clotilda O'Brien and her family for their donation. Clotilda turned 100 years of age recently and her family decided to make a donation to the school on her behalf.

Recycling

A reminder that when sending recyclables into the school, please try to separate any glass items from the rest.

Staffing for Next Year

Due to budget cuts, our teaching staff will once again be decreasing. This year we had 20.5 teachers on staff and next year we have been allotted 19.25 teaching units. These cuts will have an impact on the number of courses offered to our High school students next year.

Retirements

This year is a very special year at Baltimore School for many reasons, however, it is also somewhat sad because this is the final year at the school for 3 long-tenured teachers. In June, Ms. Maloney, Ms. Chidley and Mr. Brennan are retiring after many years of service at Baltimore School and on the Southern Shore. Their expertise, dedication, hard work and spirit will be missed at the school. We realize that they have earned the right to retire and we wish them only the best in wherever retirement takes them.

Grad

The Level III Graduation Prom will be taking place on Thursday, May 9th. The Grand March for those who would like to attend begins at 9pm.

Girls in the Trades

On Thursday, April 18, the Level I girls will be participating in a full day Women in Skill Trades Conference at the Glacier in Mount Pearl. This conference is to promote the great opportunities for young women in the Trade fields.

Print Raffle

The next fundraiser for our school will be a Print Raffle which will be drawn on May 30. The prize is a magnificent Print by Ms. Rene Pike. Each family will be sent home a book of 10 tickets to sell. The money raised will go towards the purchase of more up-to-date technology equipment. Thanks in advance for your support in this fundraising endeavour.

Jr. High Leadership Conference

Leary's Brook Junior High will be hosting the 2013 Junior High Leadership Conference on May 3rd and 4th. The theme of the conference is BORN THIS WAY – All things GAGA!! Students will take part in various information sessions and fun group activities. The following Jr. High students will be representing Baltimore School: Amber Hynes, Jaxon Mayo, Olivia O'Brien, Kelsey Hopkins, Joshua Power, Kaitlyn Brophy, Kaitlyn Lawlor, Meghan Ryan, Melanie Hynes, Emily Joudrey and Maria Lynch.

Radio Station

In just three short weeks, Baltimore School will be hosting its very own live radio station! Over the past number of weeks we have been busy compiling material for a Special Weeks Broadcast - 'Southern Shore Sounds' that will run from April 29th – May 3rd. This is a joint venture between the school and the surrounding communities of the Southern Shore.

At any given time between 2:00 and 8:00 you will have the opportunity to tune in and listen to interviews, songs, and stories from young and old alike. We are very excited at the prospect of airing all the culture, history and talents that we have to offer from Cappahayden to Brigus South.

With the support of the Rural Secretariat as well as the Provincial Government our long-term goal is to make this station a permanent fixture in our school – something that the school and community can call their own.

Recently we received a Trades and Technology grant that will allow us to purchase the license and equipment necessary to make this happen. With your involvement, support and enthusiasm we can make this project a huge success and move forward into the future!

If you have any ideas you would like to share in enhancing our programming, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. McGrath or Mr. Budgell to discuss. Further details regarding specific radio frequencies/programming will follow in the coming weeks...stay tuned!

Film Grant

In the upcoming year the students of Baltimore School will get an opportunity to participate in activities that will open their eyes to possibilities in the performance production industry. Through our close workings with the Community Youth Network we have gained funding of over \$5000 dollars which will be used to introduce students to film production and which will afford us the opportunity to use technology to enhance how we complete products in school. Included in the project will be field trips to production facilities and events and the purchase of technology for use in projects of our own. We would like to thank Terry Stone, AD of Republic of Doyle and Academy Award nominated short film Buzkashi Boy's, for his continuing help in this endeavour. Mr. Stone spent an afternoon with us discussing the film industry and his time filming in Afghanistan earlier this year. His ongoing advice is invaluable.

Provincial Champions

Congratulations to our Sr. Girls Basketball team on winning the AA Provincials girls championship. The girls, along with their coaches, David and Theresa Chidley, travelled to Plum Point on the Northern Peninsula during April 22-24 weekend. The girls did not lose a game during the tournament and, more importantly, were tremendous ambassadors for the school and the Shore. Members of the team were Jenna Fennelly, Brittney Hayden, Brittany Chidley, Shannon Chidley, Maria Lynch, Victoria Battcock, Tiffany Gale, Tasha Nieuwhof, Marissa Fennelly and Olivia Walsh. Congratulations girls on a job well done!!

European Tour 2013

After planning and paying for two years, we began the long anticipated trip to Europe on March 29th. There were 26 students, 8 parents and 4 teachers from Baltimore School and Stella Maris Academy. Our trip began with a flight to Toronto and then a connecting flight to Frankfurt, Germany where we took another connecting flight to Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Amsterdam was beautiful. We first visited the place where Anne Frank and her family hid during the Holocaust. We also did a walking tour and a boat tour of the area and saw the major tourist attractions over the next two days. Our next stop was Brussels, Belgium. We visited the Atomium, the European Union Parliament, and of course, sampled the chocolate and the waffles. After only one day, it was time to move on. While

on route to Paris, we made two very important stops. The first was at Vimy Ridge. We walked in the trenches and saw how close the soldiers fought. It was an amazing history lesson and one that we will never forget. We then went to the monument and were awarded medals for our pilgrimage to this memorial site. Our second stop for the day was at Beaumont Hamel.

We walked the battle field and paid our respect to the fallen soldiers by having a wreath laying ceremony under the caribou monument. We then travelled on to the city of lights, Paris. While in Paris, we visited the Louvre and the Palace of Versailles, had a cruise on the River Seine, and went up the Eiffel Tower. We had no down time and our only problem was with trying to fit it all in with so little time.

We next travelled through the Chunnel on the Eurostar to London. Our first stop in London was at Buckingham Palace for the changing of the guards and a city tour.

Despite the snow and freezing cold temperatures, we enjoyed our first day. We were in London for three full days and therefore managed to see quite a few attractions. We rocked at the “Let it be” musical, went for a cruise on the Thames River, saw the Big Ben and Westminster Abbey, had a ride on the London Eye, and shopped on Oxford Street.

The trip was awesome! It was a great educational opportunity and so much fun. As group leader, I would like to thank the teachers and parents for their help with whatever I needed. I would also like to thank the students for being so respectful, well-behaved and positive. They were an amazing group and I’m so lucky to have had the opportunity to share this fantastic experience with all of them.

Mrs. Mayo

European Tour 2015

There is a European Tour planned for Easter 2015. This trip will involve travel to London, Paris, Switzerland and Germany. This is for the grade 9 and Level I class of 2013 only. These students will be in Level II and III respectively in 2015. An information session is planned for Tuesday, April 23 at 6:30 in the school library. This information session will address the cost of the trip, registration, travel expectations, and the itinerary. The students from Baltimore and Stella Maris will be given first priority to register. After May 23rd, the parents will be given the opportunity to register.

Building Repairs

The building repairs scheduled for Baltimore School are still a go. Because of the identification of mould in our school this past Fall, our school is slated to have a complete replacement of the exterior shell for the Primary/Elementary wing.

Remediation work was done in October, however, this work is only temporary and beginning on the last day of school, the entire replacement work is scheduled to begin.

Enrichment Programs

As identified by one of our school goals, we as a school have placed an emphasis on providing academic enrichment for our students. Selected grade 7 and 8 students will be participating in enrichment courses. The Enrichment Mini-course program is established through a partnership with the Eastern School District and the following post-secondary institutions: Memorial University of Newfoundland, Marine Institute, and the College of the North Atlantic. The program is designed to challenge and intrigue students. Some of the courses offered are: Japanese Language and Culture; Engineering Design; Basketball camps; and Aquaculture. It has been in existence since 1995 and is very well received by student participants. The following is a list of Baltimore students taking part in the enrichment program this Spring: Danielle Dalton, Liam O'Brien, Jaxon Mayo, Vanessa Maloney, Braedon Melvin.

External School Review

During the week of March 18-20 Baltimore School underwent an External Review. This Review is done every 3 – 4 years by Department of Education staff, along with help from Board personnel. We were presented an oral report on Wednesday, March 20 and we are waiting to receive our final written report. The final written report, once it is received will be available at the school, or it can be viewed on our school website. Overall the report was very complimentary, reaffirming that we have a very good school. It also provided us with recommendations on areas that need to be improved.

Literacy Assembly

On Monday, April 22 we will be having our fourth level literacy assembly. K – Grade 6 parents are invited to join us at 9:45am for student readings and presentations.

Mathematics CRT

The Grade 3, Grade 6 and Grade 9 Mathematics CRT exams will not be administered this year. The Department of Education has made a decision to alternate Mathematics and Language Arts CRT testing from year to year. The Language Arts CRT in Grades 3, 6 and 9 will still go ahead as scheduled for this year.

School Dance

As part of our Grade 6 Prefect Program the students will be planning and hosting a dance for primary and elementary students. The funds raised will be used to purchase t-shirts. The dance will be held on Thursday, April 18/2013. K-3 dance will be from 3:00-4:00 and the grade 4-6 dance will be from 4:00-6:00. Parents of Grade 6 students are asked to donate treats to be sold at the dance.

Arts and Literature Fair

On Thursday, May 23, we will be having our annual Arts and Literature Fair. The purpose of the fair is to celebrate the wonderful work of our students. The fair will begin at 4:00pm and end at 7:00. At 6:00pm students will be presenting some of their work in the library. We will be also having a **used book sale**, parents are asked to send their unwanted books to school with their child or drop them off at any time.

Visiting Artist Ray Lake

On Wednesday, April 10, Newfoundland Musician Ray Lake gave two workshops to the Grade 8 and Newfoundland Studies classes. These workshops were very informative and students had many positive things to say. For the Newfoundland Studies group, Ray focused on songwriting. He performed several of his own songs and explained the inspiration for each and made personal connections with his ideas. The students then shared the songs they had written previously with Ray and he gave some suggestions. In the grade 8 session, he focused on Newfoundland culture, identity and several topics including WWI and economic opportunities in 19th century Newfoundland.

Jr./Sr. High Report Cards

The Grades 7 – Level III students will have their reporting period next week. Report cards will be sent home on Thursday, April 18. There will not be a Parent/Teacher interview session for this reporting period. If parents wish to contact a particular teacher or teachers, please contact the school at 432-2090 or contact the individual teacher to set up a meeting.

Afterschool Activities

The afterschool activities program at Baltimore School is having tremendous success. On Tuesdays and Thursdays after school there are over 100 students taking advantage of the activities offered. Activities such as tap dancing, guitar, knitting/crocheting, weight training, old time games, baking/decorating, yoga, karate, badminton, cheerleading, dance, skipping, parachute games and lancers are all being offered and the students are enjoying them immensely. The program will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the month of April. In May, we are expecting to take the students on afterschool excursions such as Axtion, Sea-Kayaking and Paintball.

Pi Day

Pi day was held on March 14th and involved a full day of math activities. The day was a great success with math games and art activities (K-3), “Who Stole the Missing Pi?” math contests (grades 4 - 12) and math board games (4-12). Congratulations to Trevor Dunne who won the Pi digit memorization contest and to the grade 4, 7 and 11 classes who won the digital scavenger hunt. A special thank you to the parents who helped serve pie and ice cream and hot chocolate. Many thanks to Ms. Mayo, Ms. Kavanagh and Mr. Schulz for their hard work in ensuring a very enjoyable day for all.

Volunteer Appreciation Assembly

A school is more than a building with students and teachers, it is a place that must involve the entire community. At Baltimore School we are incredibly fortunate to have such community involvement and commitment. Volunteers are extremely important to a well functioning school. On Friday, May 24 at 11:00am we will be acknowledging and serving lunch to over 100 parent and community volunteers who have done their little part to make this past year at Baltimore an enjoyable and rewarding experience. From all the staff and students, we thank all of you for giving so freely of your time and energy.

Grade 7 - Level III Exams

The June exam period will begin Monday, June 10th and end on Wednesday, June 19th. It is very important that all students prepare well in advance for their final exams. Encourage students to take advantage of the many tutoring opportunities available.